

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *Newf-Writers* and
Petty-Statefmen, of all Sides.

Saturday, December 2. 1704.

I Am now come to an end of this long, and to some tyresome, and unpleasant part of *French Influence*, the *Hungarian* Insurrection; I cannot say it does not fully answer the end of its Writing, viz. To set Peoples Thoughts right in this Matter; and I am very well satisfied of its being both true and useful.

I shall close the Scene with some Observations of my own, of what may, or may not be the Consequence of things in these Parts of the World; in which, tho' I may pass for a false Prophet, and wish I may be so indeed, yet I believe all Men will concur in this, that my Conjectures are Rational; and that's as much as I yet ought to expect.

The Author of the *Memoirs of Count Tockely* has this Observation, and which I find true enough; The *Hungarians* are good Party-Men, and do very well for an *Onslaught*, a Surprise, or a Piking War, but at Taking strong Towns, or keeping them against a Regular Enemy, or at Pitch'd Battles, they are no-body, compar'd to the *Germans*; from whence it was always apparent, that whenever the Imperial Armies came to be but any thing above 15000 Men, the *Hungarians* could never stand before them.

Count *Tockely's* Forces were whole and unbroken, when the *Poles* were Beaten at the Battle of *Barkan*; and yet the next day he did not think fit to venture to join the *Turks*, tho' 20000 of their best Troops were left, which, if

he had done, the *Imperialists* had not had so cheap a Victory, if any at all.

What I mean by it all, is this, Tho' by taking Advantage of the Emperor, when his Affairs have been at a low Ebb, the *Malecontents* have now three Times been Masters of almost all *Hungary*, yet, when ever the Emperor has, by any turn of his Affairs, been able but to spare an Army of 25000 Men, and to Pay 'em well, and Provide them with suitable Magazines, the strongest Forces of the *Hungarians* have never been able to stand before them, nor to defend their Towns against them. The old *Veteran* Troops of the Empire have been Content, on frequent occasions, to fight them with the Disadvantage of 2 to 1 against them; this has been so apparent, and is so plain of all the Histories of that Nation, that I think 'twould be needless to offer at giving Examples——But, to make it out, that 'tis just as it used to be with them, we need refer to nothing, but the small Actions which have happened to them this War——At the Battle near *Raab*, the *Malecontents* had 16000 Men, and the Imperial General, including the *Croat Militia*, could not make up 5000; and yet they were Assailants; and gave the *Malecontents* a Total Defeat. General with 2000 Men, fought another little Army of them, with near 5 to odds, at, or near, *Peterwaradin*——and 'tis observable at the end of the last War, General

K k k k

Sculz

scarcely reduc'd all the *Upper Hungary* with 16000 Men.

The necessary Inferences I make from hence are, That the *Hungarians* are worse than Madmen, in as they have taken the Advantage of the Emperor in the Ebb of of his Fortunes, to harass and over-run the Country, and beat him out of the Possession, they do not by all possible means secure themselves the Liberties they Claim, by a Peace, while that Ebb of his Affairs continues: For, as in former times it has always been, they may venture to assure themselves, should the Emperor's Affairs turn upon them, so that he can have leisure to take them into Consideration, 25000 *Germans* would put him into a Condition of giving Law to them, and beat them into a State too low to be Treated with.

And that this may be part of the Reason, why the Emperor is the easier prevail'd with, to slight their present Willingness to Comply, seems very probable; for that since the Battle at *Blenheim*, he has a fairer Prospect of reducing them by Force, than he had before; and therefore the *Hungarians* seem'd to slip their Opportunity, when they slighted the Proposals made before the Emperor in his turn, thinking himself in a Condition to slight theirs now.

If any Man shall tell me that this is not probable, and the Emperor's Condition is not retrievable; I must Answer freely, I think that a Mistake; there are several Accidents which are not at all Improbable; and if any one of them happen, the Emperor may be an Over-match for the Prince *Ragocsi*.

A Campaign but half so Successful as the last, half such a Battle as that at *Blenheim*; a turn of Affairs in *Italy*, a Settlement in *Bavaria*, or a Peace in the North: Any of these would give the Empire so much Breath, and spare him so many Troops, as that he would be far from seeking a Treaty with them.

If this be the real Case, it must be the Interest of the *Hungarians*, to agree with the Adversary quickly; it is the only Policy they have to make use of, to obtain the Settlement of their Religion and Civil Rights, and close the Scene if they can.

By this they will Demonstrate the Sincerity of their Designs, that they took Arms not for the Pretences of Liberty, but for the real Purchase; by this they will secure that Peace and Liberty, that can only justify their appearing in Arms.

If they do not, I shall be still the apter to

believe there are but few Protestants in the Concern; for certainly the Protestant Religion would open their Eyes, to see that they are Fighting against the Protestant Interest of *Europe*, and ought to continue doing so no longer than meer Necessity obliges them, for the security of their Liberties.

Nay, it will appear now, past all possibility of Contradiction, whether they are upon the Foot of Right and Religion, or no; for now they have two Protestant Mediators; and if they insist upon Articles, that those Mediators find inconsistent with the Demand of Religion and Right, I hope all the World will see the meaning of it.

There can be nothing ask'd by the *Hungarians*, which they have a Right to Demand, but the Mediators will become Intercessors with his Imperial Majesty to Grant; and their Principles have now more than Ordinary Influence on the Emperor, to Oblige him to Grant it; but what they will do, as to giving Prince *Ragocsi* new Dominions, and making him Prince or Wayvode of *Transylvania*, I can say nothing to, and do not believe they will Concern themselves in it: Nor indeed can I see any Reason why they shou'd; and if the Treaty must break off, without that Article be Granted, I am sorry for their Heads, that cannot see that this is an Article very Remote from the Pretences made use of in this War; and all I can say for the Protestants in this Case, is, They ought to make Peace without him; and if they can't, I am sorry for them.

Thus the present Treaty has brought the Affairs of *Hungary* to a Crisis; and it will be seen whether the *French* Influence has not all along too much Govern'd their Councils.

There is no Question but an Honourable Peace may now be obtain'd by the Powerful Mediation of *England* and *Holland*, and sufficient security had for its Continuance, which has been the Objection all along, and which has obstructed and broken off many a Treaty. If the Protestants slip this Occasion, I can see no probability of their ever gaining the like; and must own, I shall think, they do not deserve it.

The next Scene of *French* Influence, will lead us into *Bavaria*; there the Powerful Conduct of *France* has appear'd more open, and I hope I shall meet with less Obstruction in Examining the Affairs of the Country, under an Article of the Affairs of *France*, than I have done in this of *Hungary*; but, be that as it will, my Steps are before me, and I shall pursue my own Design

Design my own way; unless the Animadverters would please to joyn to their Reflections, some *sufficient Reason* to move me to change my Me-

thod; which no Man that ever wrote a History shall more willingly Conform to, than my self; however Dogmatick I may seem without it.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

OUR Society have been accus'd of being too free with Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, and Men of Rank; and some, *tho' we think them in the wrong*, Charge us, on those Accounts, with want of Manners.

Not to insist on our own Justification, nor to inform the World, what a Crowd of D——en J——ces, Swearing M——s, W——ing Members, of very Honourable, or Worshipful Bodies Politick, we have conceal'd, *lest others from their own Guilt, should think themselves concern'd*: we appeal to all the World for a Character of our Civility; when they shall see, with what Tenderness, and Courtesie a Worshipful Justice of Peace, not a 100 Miles from the City of N——b, was Treated at our Board, when he was Charg'd there, with most intolerable Ignorance: The Case is as follows:

His Worship had been listening, with great attention, to the Reading of the *Gazette*, and of several very Loyal Addresses therein; and had spent his Wife Verdict; very often on the Loyalty of Her Majesty's Subjects, and upon the Glorious Victory at *Blenheim*; at last the Person reading, comes to the Address from *Marlbrough*; O dear! says his Worship, *Then the Duke of Marlborough has Address'd Her Majesty too, has he?* prays let's here *what he says*; the Man, reading, being more Knave than Fool, goes on, and reads very distinctly the Address; and tho' he came to the Applause, render'd his Grace there, our Justice never observ'd the difference, but concluded, *Truly the Duke has made a very fine Address, I see he can Talk, as well as Fight*; and went away with it.

Upon hearing the Case, the Society Voted the Reader of the Address to be a very Ill Fellow, that he should go on to Read to his Worship, and not undeceive him; and that it was done with a *Wicked Design* to Banter, and Expose the Queen's Magistrates.

The Man Pleaded hard, said the Justice was a Fool, and all the City of N——b knew it; and began to run on at a strange rate.

The Society Voted Unanimously, *that was nothing to the purpose*; that Folly was no Vice;

and Native Simplicity no Crime, and therefore does not come under their Cognizance; besides, Wisdom being not Essential to the Person of a Magistrate, *but to his Office*, to be a Coxcomb, is no Crime in a Justice of Peace, but in them that put him in.

These considerations, and the abundant respect, the Society bears to the Office of a Justice, being put together, they Voted his Worship was not to be Censur'd; and besides 'twas their opinion he had as much Wit, as most of his Brethren, Justice S——s of N——b excepted.

THE following Letter from a known hand, had not been Publish'd on the Author of the *Courant*, who the Society think they have been very Merciful to lately, had not many others of like Nature, on that polite Translator, been supprest in favour to him; and we stand reprov'd for Partiality.

Gentlemen,

THE Author of the *Courant*, in his *this Days News*, from Berlin Novemb. 26. Tells us, *that the Duke of Marlborough, had a Conference with the King of Prussia, which lasted a long Hour.* Now, Gentlemen, according to Common Count, an Hour is 60 Minutes, but pray how many Minutes are there in a long Hour?

He tells us, in either Yesterdays or Saturdays *Courant*, that the King of the Romans, appear'd among the Soldiers, in the Trenches before Landau, and animated them by their presence.

These are such Blunders, as ought not to escape the Censure of your Society, I am Gentlemen,

Your Humble Servant,

Novemb. 21.

C. L.

1704

THE following Latin Verses, on the Taking of Landau, and on the French King, being sent the Society; 'twas thought not improper to insert them.

Dea

In Landaviam a Germanis expugnatam.

Germanis toties, toties Landavia Gallis
Ambita, & nulli fida factura diu,
Persaei sinem statuant imponere curis,
Qui potior visus deligat ergo iubent:
Servitio quantum libertas praestat avita,
Germanus Gallo hoc gratior, inquit, eris.

In Gallorum Regem tot militum Ductores
constituentem.

Quid tot legatos, Ductores, totq; Tribunos,
Exutum copiis constituisse juvat?
Nempe hoc Mariborius, monet hoc odioſa Cremona
Sufficias, LODOIX, unde perire licet.

J. C.

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